NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

April 7, 1995

NEW ZEALAND DIGNITARIES VISIT MUSEUM

On Wednesday, March 29, the Right Honourable J. B. Bolger, Prime Minister of New Zealand; Mr. John Wood, the New Zealand Ambassador to the United States; their wives; and a large delegation of trade and commerce ministry officials and business leaders from New Zealand paid a visit to The Field Museum. The group enjoyed **Mary Ann Bloom**'s presentation at the Maori Meeting House, a brief reception in the Founders' Room, and a visit to the Pawnee Earth Lodge. The visitors were most impressed with the Museum and the Maori Meeting House.

We owe special thanks to **Mark Torbeck** and the Security and Visitor Services staff for their hard work in preparing for a smooth visit with members of the Secret Service, and to **Liz Adams** and her staff for preparing such a nice reception.

We are also grateful to Exhibits Department staff who touched up the Maori Meeting House exhibit area prior to the visit: **Howard Bezin, Nel Fetherling, Diane Hanau-Strain, Karen Olenski, and Henry Tucker.** The following supervisors helped coordinate details of the delegation's visit: **Mary Ann Bloom, Jean Cattell, Neil Keliher, Dave Layman, Mike Paha, Rodger Patience, and Gene Dillenburg.**

Willard E. White
Vice President for
Institutional Advancement

SENDING FAXES? TELL *THE TRUE STORY OF BATS*

A new cover sheet is available for sending faxes. It includes the logo for this summer's feature exhibit **Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats**, with the exhibits dates. Help tell the world about bats -- pick up cover sheets from Frantz in the Mail Room. OR -- if you'd like one with your office fax number on it, contact **Carrie Hageman.**

OFFICE CLEANING

On February 22, 1993, office cleaning was reduced to twice weekly in order to provide additional daily cleaning required in the public areas. Full cleaning services are performed in all offices on Tuesdays and Fridays only.

On the days that your areas will not receive housekeeping services, (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday), we will place trash receptacles in the following locations by 3:00 p.m., to deposit your trash in at the end of your work day. Dry trash that does not fill your wastebasket, does not have to be emptied until the container is full. All other trash should be emptied daily.

TRASH CONTAINER LOCATIONS:

GROUND FLOOR:

1. Administration corridor next to the Programs Development Department
2. Picnic in The Field, on the school side
3. Staff corridor leading to the freight elevator by the Food Services Department

FIRST FLOOR:

Next to the freight elevator, adjacent to the Visitor's Services Department.

SECOND FLOOR:

Temporarily, on call only. You may have your trash picked up in this location by calling X 499.

THIRD AND FOURTH FLOORS:

Next to the freight elevator.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact **Jim, Sue,** or **Sharon** in Housekeeping (x499).

The *Natural News* is edited by **Richard Koontz** and **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

CALLING ALL FIELD MUSEUM BIOLOGISTS

Attention Field Museum biologists! Please be sure to complete and return by April 28 the questionnaire for the new edition of the Directory of Illinois Systematists, Ecologists, and Field Biologists. The Directory, compiled by the Illinois Natural History Survey, will provide a comprehensive index to people who live or conduct research in Illinois that is systematic or ecological in nature, or who have considerable biological field experience with Illinois ecosystems. Where appropriate, please ask new staff or graduate students to complete the questionnaire too. Even if you were included in the 1989 edition, you must complete the questionnaire to be included in the new edition. If you need a copy of the questionnaire, please call **Lori Breslauer** (Academic Affairs x627).

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon for April 4, 1995 was given by **Dr. Bruce Patterson**, Curator, Division of Mammals, Department of Zoology. Bruce declared 1995 to be "The Year of the Bat" in noting the museum's forthcoming traveling exhibit "Masters of the Night." He discussed the vast array of morphological and biological specializations found in this major radiation of flying mammals. Various groups of bats are specialized feeders of such diverse foods as fish, other terrestrial vertebrates, insects, fruits and even pollen and nectar. Bruce discussed his on going and long term cooperative research program with Victor Pacheco and Sergio Solari, each with San Marcos University, Lima, Peru. They are working to understand the distributional patterns seen in all mammals across elevational gradients in the Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru. The Manu reserve is of particular interest due to the very high level of endemicity. For example, the eastern half of North America is home to 110 species of mammals, while the entire country of Peru lays claim to nearly four times as many species, 424, in less than one-thrid the area, and the area record is taken by Manu reserve itself with 193 species. In terms of elevational zonation, one often finds species restricted to specific ranges such as the low lands, the montane or the high altiplano. However, in detailing analyses of their bat data, Bruce underscored a quite different pattern where species found at mid and high elevations also occurred in the low elevations. Since temperature declines with an increase in altitude, and many warm blooded vertebrate species show a corresponding increase in body size in cooler climates, termed Bergmann's Rule, Bruce examined body size data for the bats, but found no correlation with altitude. These findings prompted considerable discussion of the underlying factors. However, Bruce noted the paucity of detailed observations of the biology of the bats. This record would be incomplete lest it be noted that Bruce is the Noon Balloon debutant, having initiated this entire series in January, 1993.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

CCUC AWARDED NEH FUNDING FOR CONVERSATIONS

The Center For Cultural Understanding and Change is pleased to announce that The Field Museum has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities under the special initiative on Conversations on American Pluralism and Identity. The grant allows us to hold a series of nine conversations involving anthropologists, museum professionals and Chicago's publics around the topic of culture. Our conversation series is also supported by the John Nuveen Company and is entitled "The Nuveen Forum at The Field Museum: Teaching Culture and Cultural Teachings: Conversations on Culture and Identity in America."

Each conversation uses elements from the Museum's exhibits as texts to discuss themes related to this topic. The conversations and their dates are:

"Africa's Meaning for All Americans"— July, 1995

"The Creation of National Identity"— September, 1995

"New Voices, Old Themes: A Multicultural Critique of Historical Representation"— October, 1995.

"Building Collaborative Relationships with Indigenous People"—November, 1995

"Representing or Presenting Culture: Who Speaks for Whom?"— January, 1996

"Was it Art or Science?" (A discussion of the Malvina Hoffman sculptures)—March, 1996

"The Role of Physical Variation in Shaping Cultural Identity"—April 1996

"Conversations with Teens on Cultural Identity"—May, 1996

"The Packaging of Culture" —June 1996.

If you would like to know more details about the project or would like to contribute in some way, please call **Alaka Wali** or **Jaci Carter** at CCUC.

CCUC HOSTS LUNCH FOR CKAP ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD

The Center For Cultural Understanding And Change hosted a lunch for the Collaborative Kinship and Adoption Project (CKAP)Academic Advisory Board. The CKAP project is an attempt to use videographic and ethnographic techniques to document the variety of arrangements people use in different cultures to take care of children. The Advisory Board will link us to other academic institutions in Chicago and will provide guidance on different phases of the project. CCUC is also funding an intern to conduct pilot research for the project this summer.

ALAKA WALI AND JACI CARTER ATTEND CHICAGO FORUM ON THE ARTS

Alaka Wali and Jaci Carter attended a forum on "The Arts in Chicago" hosted by the Chicago Council on Urban Affairs. The forum speakers considered the importance of cultural and philanthropic institutions to Chicago's economy. The talks were informative and highlighted the difficulties that institutions will face as funds for the arts and humanities become more restricted.

NEW GUINEA RESEARCH PROGRAM NEWS

The New Guinea Research Seminar for March 29, 1995, was presented by Dr. Jeremy J. Martinson, Research Associate, Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford University. His talk was entitled, "Molecular Genetics in The Pacific: Internal Structure Analysis of Human Alpha-Globin Vntr Alleles." Dr. Martinson is one of a handful of molecular geneticist studying genetic variation in human populations living in the Pacific.

Dr. Martinson spent three days in Chicago consulting with The Field Museum's New Guinea Research Program (NGRP) - Human Diversity Project team. This project is currently seeking funding in order to add a molecular component to the anthropological and archeological research that **Dr. John Terrell** (Curator, Anthropology) and Dr. Robert L. Welsch (Adjunct Associate Curator, Anthropology) have been conducting on the Sepik Coast of Papua New Guinea. Other members of the NGRP - Human Diversity Project are **Dr. Pamela J. Stewart** (Research Associate, Anthropology) and Dr. Mary Ashley (Research Associate, Zoology and Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago).

During the last decade, the study of human genetic variation has made a quantum leap from the analysis of protein and antigen intermediaries to the investigation of DNA itself. Our proposed research will draw on the recent advances in molecular genetic analysis which for the first time make feasible the extensive sampling and analysis of many individuals from remote study sites such as those on the Sepik Coast of Papua New Guinea. This research will provide a better understanding of how social processes among the diverse peoples of the Sepik Coast have shaped the genetic structure of these communities.

Dr. Martinson's seminar followed the March 29, 1995 NGRP seminar presented by Dr. Welsch, "Ethnological Results of The A. B. Lewis Project Expedition - 1993-1994." Dr. Welsch's seminar discussed some of the extensive field research that he and Dr. Terrell have conducted in Papua New Guinea.

LOST CART -- The President's Office has lost a gray utility cart. We are sure that it is serving the Museum usefully somewhere, but we need it and would deeply appreciate getting it back. We think it has "Pres. Off." scrawled in black magic marker on the side, but we are not quite sure. Please call **Carolyn** (x642) if you have had a sighting. Thanks.

ATTENTION -- ALL EMPLOYEES WITH DIRECT DEPOSIT!!!

Before you close your bank accounts, STOP AND THINK! You must notify the PERSONNEL/PAYROLL DEPARTMENT FIRST! If you do not do this, your paycheck will be sitting in limbo and you will not receive your paycheck until the NEXT PAYDATE! If you have any questions regarding this, please call **Doris** (x220) or **Sandy** (x289).

EDUCATION

Another indication of The Field Museum network was evident earlier this month when two Education volunteers **Mildred Frank** and **Leonore Levit** met with former Anthropology intern **Becky Hammond** at Becky's home on the Ute Reservation in southern Colorado. They knew each other from Becky having made use of Webber Resource Center where Mil volunteers several days a week. Mil and Leonore were on an Elderhostel trip in the Four Corner area. Meeting with representatives of the Ute Tribal Council was part of the course. Becky's family was most hospitable and informative. The dinner, including elk which her brother-in-law had shot, was yummy. Becky is glad to be home after one-and-a-half years in Chicago, and talked a bit about the culture shock of going to Chicago and then home again.

SOFTBALL PRACTICE BEGINS

The strike is over, and the way is clear for life to return to normal. Soon we'll once again be drinking beer, eating munchies, and sleeping in the sun. (That's just the players; what the fans do is their own business.)

The Dead Animal Zoo is happy to announce its spring training schedule. Weather permitting, we will hold practice on:

Thursday, April 20
Wednesday, April 26
Tuesday, May 2

All practice games will take place in Grant Park, across the Drive from the West Door, and begin right after work at 4:30 p.m. We hope this schedule will permit everyone who is interested to come out at least once.

PLEASE NOTE: These are "practice" sessions, not "training." As highly-trained professionals, we are already as good as we are going to get. More's the pity. Nor are these sessions "tryouts." The motto of the Dead Animal Zoo has always been "whoever wants to play, gets to play. And whoever wants to sit on the sidelines swilling cheap beer will never want for company."

The regular season is due to begin the week of May 8. A full schedule will be printed in a future issue of the *Natural News*.

On a related note, the search for a new Coach continues. Despite published reports to the contrary, the DAZ did *not* win six games under former coach **Gene Dillenburg**. They won 12: three in 1992, four in 1993, and five in 1994. If this trend continues unabated, the team will have a winning season before the end of the century -- an unprecedented event which could very well signal the end of civilization as we know it. Which may not be a bad thing per se, but I've still got twelve more payments on my car.

Submitted by Gene Dillenburg